

The intent of Sinclair Broadcasting to not just to air, but to "force-feed" their affiliates partisan material shortly before a presidential election is an outrageous affront to responsible democratic practice and an abuse of privileges our society affords them by licensing their business through a federally regulated use of public airwaves. Their decision to require their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. They have abused their privileges before in refusing to air a segment of such a time-honored program as Nightline because individuals in their directorship personally disagreed with the content. Why should any portion of the American people be subject to the whims and desires of a tiny, but financially powerful set of individuals who have been given access to the public domain?.

Where is the FCC in all of this? Your mandate is not to act as business partners of the industry, but rather to be partners of all the citizenry in a mutual quest to public service. Please stand by the whole of America and go down in history

as making the responsible decision here to stop this abuse.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.